U.S. Department of Energy

Environmental Management Recovery Act

Keeping You in the Know

News Flash!

September 18, 2009

Hanford Cleanup Boosted by Recovery Act Funding

"Recovery Act funding ($1.6B) is providing us with a tremendous opportunity to keep highly trained people on the job at Hanford and hire new workers to do important cleanup work sooner. … Our overall goal is to shrink the active cleanup footprint to 75 square miles or less by the year 2015 and the ARRA funding puts us on solid footing to achieve that goal." -- ***Dave Brockman, Manager, DOE Richland Operations Office***


PFP Glovebox

Plutonium Finishing Plant

With the use of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding, the DOE Richland Operations Office is accelerating the cleanout of the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP), a hazardous facility on the Hanford Site in southeast Washington State. With an increased workforce, Hanford is accelerating the decontamination and removal of equipment from the PFP facilities to support DOE's goal of cleaning out and demolishing the plant by 2013, three years ahead of the 2016 regulatory milestone.

Waste Retrieval Project Moves Forward Thanks to ARRA Funding

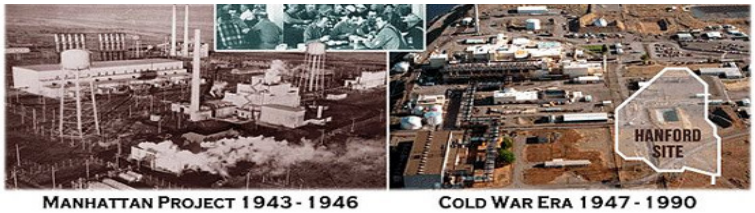
Hanford's Waste Retrieval project recently finished removing more than 1,300 deteriorating drums and containers of suspect transuranic (TRU) waste from underground concrete vaults on Hanford's Central Plateau. Since October 2008, workers have been retrieving the last 335 of the original 1,338 containers in the vaults. The work was originally funded through March 2009 but with the support of Recovery Act funds, workers were able to finish retrieving the final 310 containers.


Waste retrieval


Soil stockpiled in ERDF

Expansion of Hanford Disposal Facility

Excavation work to expand a disposal facility for mixed, low-level waste at the Hanford Site in Washington State using ARRA funding began in early August. The expansion will allow the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) to receive additional debris from cleanup projects across the Hanford Site, including new projects funded by the Recovery Act. Designed to be expanded as needed, cells can be combined into super cells. Each super cell measures 500 feet wide by 1,000 feet across and 70 feet deep and can accommodate about 2.8 million tons of contaminated material.



MANHATTAN PROJECT 1943 - 1946 COLD WAR ERA 1947 - 1990

Working Towards The End Result

- **Finished demolition of 15 above-ground tanks July 2009**
- **Legacy Low-Level Waste Oils shipped in 2009, one year ahead of schedule**
- **Solid Waste Stabilization treatment and disposition work ahead of FY 2009 target**

Hanford: In Transition

Located just north of the city of Richland in the southeastern part of Washington State, the 586-square-mile Hanford Site is managed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Hanford was established in secrecy during World War II to produce plutonium for an atomic bomb. Peak nuclear materials production was reached in the 1960s, when eight reactors were in operation. Altogether, Hanford supplied plutonium for the United States nuclear weapons defense for more than four decades. All weapons material production was halted in the late 1980s, and Hanford is now engaged in the world's largest environmental cleanup project. With a workforce of approximately 11,000 and an annual budget of nearly $1.4 billion dollars, Hanford is vigorously pursuing three cleanup outcomes: restoring the Columbia River Corridor, transitioning the central part of the Hanford Site for waste treatment and long-term storage and putting DOE's assets, including the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, to work solving regional and global environmental problems.

More information regarding Richland ARRA is available at www.Hanford.gov/recovery.

EM Environmental Management
safety ✣ performance ✣ cleanup ✣ closure

For more information on EM Recovery Act, visit: www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery